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SUBJECT: (Optional)

Trip Report - United States Air Force Academy - 12-14 October 1988

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OCA 3595-88

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24 October 1988

**TRIP REPORT  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY  
12-14 October 1988**

1. Venue: I attended the Academy's Thirteenth Military History Symposium, "The Intelligence Revolution: A Historical Perspective," 12-14 October 1988. Through arrangements made by Colonel Frank Rosa of the Academy's Political Science Department, I also spoke on 13 October to a combined class of some 30 cadets who are studying defense policy.

2. Program: The Symposium was very well attended--about 250 participants, mostly from the academic community and the military (a copy of the program is attached). A formal record of the proceedings will be available in the next few months. In the meantime, some notes of interest from conversations and presentations:

Richard Helms: The leaking of intelligence activities that is going on today is nothing short of treason...Because of Howard, the CIA lost an excellent source on Soviet stealth technology...Estimating is extraordinarily difficult. An irrational move is the most difficult event to predict. In such a situation, a spy may be better than an estimator...Congress is now micromanaging covert action and foreign policy. Congress has no right to do this...A "wild card" in arms control verification is the sudden defection of someone who would know if cheating is taking place...The acronym "HUMINT" is distasteful--it sounds like a fertilizer.

Marshall S. Carter: When asked by President Kennedy to become the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, he was serving as the head of air defense artillery in El Paso and was "bald-assed naked" about intelligence. Whereas he was able to easily arrange meetings with Kennedy and LBJ, Haldeman virtually shut down any meetings with President Nixon.

Sir Francis Hinsley: Bill Casey was "overimaginative"--he lacked "a bit of judgement." He was a man of many ideas, always thrusting. Bill Donovan was a man "of very good judgement."

Sam Wilson: There is change in the Soviet Union, but many things remain the way they have always been. Above all, the West is advised to resist being lulled into complacency in its relations with the Soviet Union and in dealing with Gorbachev.

Ray Cline: After our intelligence system was run down badly in the 70s, President Reagan and William Casey restored the Intelligence Community to a high level of cooperation and performance...President Eisenhower's "open skies" proposal is still a good idea...As a member of George Bush's Steering Committee, is pushing to attack the problem of unauthorized disclosures of intelligence.

3. Travel and Logistics: I flew United roundtrip to Colorado Springs from Dulles with a connecting flight in Denver. I spent three nights in the Sheraton Inn on the edge of the Academy grounds.

4. Comments and Recommendations: The Symposium was conducted in a very professional manner and was one of the most informative and pleasant events of its kind that I have ever attended: excellent presentations (papers were not available), discussions, and conversations (even good food!). We should ensure that the formal report is widely circulated within the Agency.

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